

III.A.5.N.a. Broad-leaved and microphyllous evergreen extremely xeromorphic subdesert shrubland

III.A.5.N.a.11. EPHEDRA NEVADENSIS SHRUBLAND ALLIANCE Nevada Joint-fir Shrubland Alliance

EPHEDRA NEVADENSIS BASALT SHRUBLAND [PROVISIONAL]

Nevada Joint-fir Basalt Shrubland

ELEMENT CONCEPT

GLOBAL SUMMARY: This association has only been described from Zion NP. Until further inventory is completed there is no global information.

ENVIRONMENTAL DESCRIPTION

USFWS Wetland System: Not Applicable

Zion National Park Environment: This stand of *Ephedra nevadensis* occurs on a basalt outcrop at 4100 feet. The slope is gentle with a southerly aspect. Exposed soils are minimal and have clay loam texture. Most of soil is covered with small and large lava rocks.

Global Environment: This association has only been described from Zion NP. Until further inventory is completed there is no global information.

VEGETATION DESCRIPTION

Zion National Park Vegetation: *Ephedra nevadensis* dominates this association with cover of 30%. *Gutierrezia sarothrae*, *Atriplex canescens*, and *Echinocereus engelmannii* are present but contribute minimal cover. The herbaceous layer is normally very sparse.

Global Vegetation: This association has only been described from Zion NP. Until further inventory is completed there is no global information.

Global Dynamics: Information not available.

MOST ABUNDANT SPECIES

Zion National Park

<u>Stratum</u>	<u>Species</u>
SHORT SHRUB	<i>Ephedra nevadensis</i>

Global

<u>Stratum</u>	<u>Species</u>
Information not available.	

CHARACTERISTIC SPECIES

Zion National Park

<u>Stratum</u>	<u>Species</u>
SHORT SHRUB	<i>Atriplex canescens</i> , <i>Ephedra nevadensis</i> , <i>Gutierrezia sarothrae</i>
GRAMINOID	<i>Achnatherum hymenoides</i> , <i>Bromus tectorum</i> , <i>Hesperostipa comata</i> , <i>Sporobolus cryptandrus</i>

Global

<u>Stratum</u>	<u>Species</u>
Information not available.	

GLOBAL SIMILAR ASSOCIATIONS:

Information not available.

GLOBAL STATUS AND CLASSIFICATION COMMENTS

Global Conservation Status Rank: G?.

Global Comments: Information not available.

ELEMENT DISTRIBUTION

Zion National Park Range: This association occurs on the Rockville Bench at the southern boundary of the park.

Global Range: This association has currently only been described from Zion NP in southwestern Utah.

Nations: US

States/Provinces: UT

ELEMENT SOURCES

Zion National Park Inventory Notes: Plots: 516

Classification Confidence: **Identifier:** CEGL002936

REFERENCES: None available.